Diese Website verwendet Cookies von Google, um Dienste anzubieten und den Traffic zu analysieren. Deine IP-Adresse und dein User-Agent werden zusammen mit Messwerten zur Leistung und Sicherheit für Google freigegeben. So können Nutzungsstatistiken generiert, Missbrauchsfälle erkannt und behoben und die Qualität des Dienstes gewährleistet werden.

WEITERE INFORMATIONEN OK

An unending variety of topics

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Security and the institutions of medieval republics

I have written about how the productivity of property, and the institutions associated with that property, have tended to be greatly improved when that property was more secure from military and poor quality political intervention (and how these two interventions were often related). Societies dominated by different kinds of property thus have formed different kinds of political and legal structures. For example, modern states whose economies are dominated by the extraction of oil and other minerals tend to have strong governments, and correspondingly less freedom and democracy, especially when (as now) the prices of those mineral deposits are high, probably because mineral extraction tends to be dominated by up-front rather than operational costs, making it easy for governments to expropriate the bulk of the surplus.

Pages

- Home

About Me

Nick Szabo

"A premier thinker about history, law and economics, and the lessons they have for security." -- Adam Shostack, Emergent Chaos

"Szabo comes out with these essays that leave me in awe." -- Brian Dunbar

"Reading material that is eclectic, challenging and endlessly fascinating." -- Sean McGrath, Propylon

"Like most blogs worth my attention, this blog is updated only infrequently. That is because the authors of blogs worth my attention only post when they have something to say that is true, relevant and not already known by their audience. Most of the human race does not have the skill to know when an idea has these three properties. The skill is particularly rare in the fields of politics and economics, which is why this blog is such a rare and valuable thing." -- Richard Hollerith

View my complete profile

Although farming dominated most economies until modern times, medieval city republics produced a large number of crucial innovations and had a profound influence on the modern world. Examples included Venice, Genoa, and the Hanseatic League. These republics were focused on cities and their economies were dominated by goods (primarily their storage and transport, but also manufacturing) rather than by farming. As a result, they evolved a set of unique institutions and a unique form of government, the corporate republic. These republics were generally focused on cities that secured their goods, markets, and persons on islands or behind steep mountains. These medieval republics developed a wide variety of institutional innovations, such as insurance and the corporate republican form of government, which are crucial to our modern era.

Illustrations: Genoa (top) and Venice (above), foci of the two most extensive, powerful, and innovative city republics of medieval Europe.

Posted by Nick Szabo at 11:39 AM

1 comment:

Anonymous said...

Some societies have simply failed to protect property well, such as the communist societies of the 20th century. I wonder if it is reasonable to assume, as you seem to be assuming, that all such wasteful societies will not last long enough to be historically important.

1:13 PM

Post a Comment

Blog Archive

- ► 2018 (1)
- ► 2017 (3)
- ► 2016 (4)
- ► 2015 (3)
- ► 2014 (3)
- ► 2013 (3)
- ► 2012 (8)
- ► 2011 (12)
- ► 2010 (9)
- ► 2009 (29)
- ► 2008 (55)
- ► 2007 (47)
- ▼ 2006 (130)
  - ► December (4)
  - ► November (7)
  - ► October (15)
  - ► September (15)
  - ► August (20)
  - ► July (5)
  - ▼ June (10)
    - Selling seashells by the seashore
    - U.S. Supreme Court decides to hear global warming...
    - Monetary origins pushed back
    - Metabolite dismissed, but no justice argues "law o...
    - Menger on money: right and wrong
    - Security and the institutions of medieval republic...
    - Global warming, fractal delegation, and the non-de...
    - Property, security, and freedom
    - Jurisdiction as property: the

Subscribe to: Post Comments (Atom)

paper

Jurisdiction as property and peer-to-peer governme...

► May (4)

► April (3)

► March (11)

► February (10)

► January (26)

► 2005 (44)

Simple theme. Powered by Blogger.